ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An authentication method and apparatus at a wireless LAN (local area network) system based on the IEEE 802.11, in which many STAs (terminal stations) are connected to APs (access points), and which

5   can keep the security in authentication, is provided.   At the authentication method, an authentication request from one of the STAs composed of a data terminal and a wireless LAN card is transmitted to one of the APs.   The AP transmits a MAC (media access control) address of the STA to an authentication server by converting the authentication

10   request to a protocol adaptable to the authentication server.   The authentication server checks the MAC address and transmits a challenge message to the AP 2.   The AP 2 executes encryption authentication with the STA based on a WEP (wired equivalent privacy) algorithm stipulated in the IEEE 802.11.